



## NEWS FROM THE GIRARDS IN ARREZO, ITALY

October 2022

**Ciao a tutti! "Greetings y'all!"**

We've just had some beautiful meetings this week with some missionary friends of ours, the Millers. They came here from Philippines, and it was a joy hosting them, sharing life together and seeing how God used them in our church service. They've been feeding the poor, working in orphanages, and sharing the love of God in the Philippines for nearly 20 years. Eric led a very anointed service and the presence of the Holy Spirit could be felt very strongly by everyone. While we were in Florence, Eric reminded us of the story of Savonarola, a Catholic friar who was martyred there. Italians blame the Renaissance for the protestant movement and Reformation. Because during the time of the Renaissance they encouraged free thinking, reason, and observation. Savonarola, a Catholic friar dedicated to the message of the Cross, condemned the priests and popes for their hypocrisy, corruption, and indulgences in relics crimes. For this, they killed him because he challenged their theology and lifestyle. In one of the main squares there is a plaque dedicated to him, where he and 2 of his faithful disciples were burnt at the stake. You can read more about his amazing life here: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girolamo\\_Savonarola](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girolamo_Savonarola). This also brought us into a time of reflection and prayer. There are MANY followers of Jesus who were martyred in Italy – thousands. Their blood cries out from the ground. Just as we groan and cry, "come Lord Jesus, come", so do they along with the many saints who've gone before us.



*The memorial plaque read, "Here Friar Domenico Buonvicini and Friar Silvestro Maruffi were unjustly hung and burnt with Friar Girolamo Savonarola. This memorial was laid 400 years later."*





Before the Millers came, I (Leia) was in Switzerland for a Times of Refreshing conference hosted by Bill and Emogene Kaiser ministries. It was WONDERFUL. It's a retreat for American ministers working in Europe. Actually, during those many hours we raise our voices and worship our Lord the presence of God so strong no one wanted it to stop. We sat with missionaries working full time in Ukraine, on the ground, and the situation is dire.



The Russians really are bombing innocent civilians constantly. They are working non-stop to bring in food and supplies to the Ukrainian soldiers and civilians. Other friends of ours are working in other cities in Turkey, England, Hungary, Czech Republic. So many testimonies of how God is using these hard times to draw people back to Him, back to His unconditional love!

In that retreat God reminded me that I need to take some steps back from a schedule overly dedicated to many things/events/people and focus on the needs of our children right now at the start of school. Sometimes the needs of everyone can pull and pull on you, but God really showed me to take a step back from too many commitments and just focus on a couple of more important needs the kids have. Some of them are studying at home, others are part of a homeschool co-op. But they are also involved in some sports which is important for them to socialize and speak Italian fluently.

Our Healing for the Nations retreat is coming up at the end of the month! This is the intensive 5-day retreat we do annually, and it's a very important one. So far, it seems we have between 5 and 6 participants coming. We walk people through stronghold messages (lies we believe) and the survival systems we build up around them. We teach on performance, approval, blame and shame among many other teachings like grief, forgiveness, co-dependency, etc. Let's just say it's a very full retreat for people who are actively looking for the path to wholeness in Christ. Please be in prayer for this retreat. Each time, people leave changed as we expose the enemies schemes, receive the healing love of Christ, and many desire to move forward into freedom. Any extra financial gifts would be an amazing help for this retreat. Doors are opening from the north to the south of Italy. Churches want us to come and do these intensive weekends with them, and as they open up, we prayerfully move forward with planning those events.

Besides ministry, we have had very busy schedules. Hosting meals with believers and unbelievers, working for the homeschool co-op (and we get to share a lot about God and His ways in those groups!) I've been assisting my friend, helping her with her first baby as she's had troubles with nursing, and breeding kittens. You may remember that we started breeding exotic cats called Toygers to help out with our 2 oldest daughters' university and online school expenses. We just got a litter of 8 kittens 3 days ago.



*The trickiest part is to keep Olivia away from them. "But they were crying and needed my teddy bear, daddy!"*

Nicolas has had to travel a lot to France and Switzerland for work (during the week, not weekends so we can stay dedicated to the local body of Christ). He is also seeing open doors to minister to his colleagues and some clients. He is constantly reminded that money (he works in the luxury furniture industry) cannot buy the most essential needs a person has. A multi-millionaire asked him last week some advice about raising her 16-year-old daughter. Colleagues are eager to know more about our faith. And the list goes on.



*Some cuddles while mom was away*

Any donations you are sending at this time do not go unnoticed and are very needed. We thank you! Actually, we are so beyond thankful for them because we know some of you struggle too! Inflation here is very high, and energy and heating bills are going up another 60-70% next month. Yes, you read that right. Italians are frightened, there is some serious crisis happening here, but we didn't want to make this news report sound like mainstream media reports – pessimistic points of view. God is using this time of lack to draw men to Himself. God will use any and all types of crisis to remind men that we are just a vapor on this earth. Riches are a vapor and can be blown away with just a moment's notice. But His Word will stand until the end!!! We just had a less-socialist prime minister elected with a landslide, and we really hope she will do a great job. She stands up against the bureaucrats of Brussels, fights for the people and against the way the EU has been using Italy to promote their globalist agenda. Now those same aristocrats are threatening Italy. What a clown show!

Western Europe has lived in peace since 1945. It means that anybody 75 years of age and under do not understand the meaning of living in an active conflict. Our generation have only known the peace that the world gives, and now freedoms and peace are at risk. People are frightened and we pray for a great revival in this generation. It is time they knew the peace that Jesus gives. It is time they lived in fellowship with the living God, rather than barely knowing stories about Him. It is time families and churches gathered to help one another, comfort one another, and share the Gospel to one another. When Paul said to preach the Word and to be prepared in and out of seasons, he meant that any day is a good day to be a blessing, to make disciples, to heal the sick, to raise the dead. He meant that whatever excuse we may come up with is utterly ridiculous. Let's pick up our Cross and bring the Gospel to all nations, in this generation.

Love and blessings upon you all!

*Nicolas, Leía, Eva, Elise, Sophie, Isaiah and Olivia*

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

We covet your prayers!  
This month please agree with  
us on:

- our upcoming retreat
- financial miracles as the cost of living is increasing
- revival in the nation!